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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

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ELIZABETH BUNN, Secretary-Treasurer

February 25, 2010

To: Senator Prague, Rep. Ryan and Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

From: Robert Madore, Director  
Beverley Brakeman, Community Action Program Representative

Re: SB 63 AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO  
EMPLOYEES

My name is Beverley Brakeman and I am here on behalf of our Director Robert Madore to urge your support of SB 63 An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.

The facts are simple:

1. 40% of employees in CT have no paid sick days;
2. 78% of employees working food service and accommodations lack paid sick days;
3. 18% of office employees will catch the flu from a sick coworker;
4. According to the CDC, about 50% of norovirus outbreaks are caused by ill food service workers;
5. 77% of low wage earners – those who can least afford missed pay – lack paid sick days;
6. 1 in 6 workers report they or a family member have been fired, suspended or disciplined because of missing work due to illness.

And yet, while the business community will tell you this bill is bad for business, the research indicates that the savings from providing paid sick days far outweighs the costs and that presentee-ism (employees who come to work sick) costs employers \$180 billion annually.

Employees are a company's greatest asset and yet they are routinely exploited in the interest of profits and/or cost savings. We urge you to pass this bill because it helps to level the playing field for employees who need to be able to stay healthy while making a living. It's not only good public health policy but it's the right thing to do.

Thank you.

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